

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

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SUBJECT: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: (A) MADRID 01438, (B) STATE 298258

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
(REFTEL A) FOR RESPONSE TO SPANISH AIR STAFF.

2. LANDING WEIGHT FOR SHUTTLE WILL BE BETWEEN 180,000
AND 210,000 POUNDS. THE SHUTTLE ORBITER HAS NO ENGINES
FOR USE IN THE ATMOSPHERE DURING LANDING APPROACH. IT
IS ESSENTIALLY A HIGH SPEED GLIDER WITHOUT GO-AROUND OR
HOLDING CAPABILITY. IT WILL APPROACH AN AIRFIELD ON A
RAPIDLY DESCENDING STRAIGHT PATH FROM THE WEST (NW
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THROUGH SW) DEPENDING UPON TRAJECTORY. ABOUT 9 NMI FROM
THE RUNWAY, IT WILL MAKE A TURN TO ALIGN WITH THE RUNWAY
FOR FINAL DESCENT AND LANDING. A TYPICAL LANDING ALTI-
TUDE AND TIME PROFILE FOLLOWS:

ALT	DIST FROM RUNWAY	TIME TO TOUCHDOWN
(KFT)	CENTER (NMI)	MINUTES

160	150	11
110	100	8
90	50	6
70	36	5
55	23	4
40	16	3
25	10	2

3. ORBITER LANDING SYSTEM: THE ORBITER HAS TWIN WHEELED LANDING GEAR; ONE TWIN WHEELED NOSE GEAR AND TWO UNDER-THE WING MAIN GEARS. IT HAS ANTI-SKID BRAKING AND NOSE WHEEL STEERING. THE LOAD DESIGN ON THE RUNWAY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. DESIGN WHEEL LOAD (STATIC) - 60,000 POUNDS.
- B. TIRE PRESSURE - 230 TO 385 PSI.
- C. MAIN GEAR LOADS - 90 OF GROSS ORBITER WEIGHT.

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- D. MAIN GEAR SPACING - 23 FEET, CENTER TO CENTER.
- E. MAIN GEAR TIRE SPACING - 36 INCHES CENTER TO CENTER.

4. RUNWAY REQUIREMENTS: AT LEAST 10,000 FEET LONG AND 150 FEET WIDE WITH APPROXIMATELY 1,000 FEET PAVED OVER-RUNS ON EACH END. NO BARRIER IS REQUIRED.

5. AIRSPACE REQUIRED IS:

- A. ALTITUDE - UP TO 70 K FT
- B. DISTANCE - APPROXIMATELY 36 NMI IN RADIUS FROM THE RUNWAY CENTER ALONG AN ARC FROM AZIMUTHS OF 220 TO 320 TRUE FROM CENTER OF RUNWAY.
- C. DURATION - APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES.
- D. NOTIFICATION FROM NASA - AT LEAST TWO HOURS BEFORE LANDING.

6. SEARCH AND RESCUE REQUIREMENTS: NO SPECIAL ALERTING

OR READINESS BEYOND USUAL.

7. CREW ASSISTANCE: NO SPECIAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CREW PERSONNEL IS ANTICIPATED. NASA/DOD WILL DEVELOP A MEDICAL PLAN FOR USE BY CONTINGENCY AIRFIELD PERSONNEL. CREW PERSONNEL WILL BE RETURNED TO THE U.S. AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER LANDING.

8. ORBITER ASSISTANCE: ORBITER CANNOT TAXI AFTER LANDING. IT MUST BE TOWED WITH A SPECIAL TOW BAR ADAPTER WHICH WILL BE FURNISHED BY NASA TO EACH CONTINGENCY LANDING SITE PRIOR TO OPERATIONAL TEST FLIGHTS. NASA TEAM AND EQUIPMENT (PARA 2 REFTTEL B) WILL BE DISPATCHED WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER ORBITER LANDING TO DE-UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICE ORBITER AND MATE ATOP NASA MODIFIED 747 AIRCRAFT FOR RETURN TO THE U.S. UP TO 55 NASA PERSONNEL MAY BE REQUIRED. TOTAL OPERATION MAY TAKE UP TO 45 DAYS TO COMPLETE. ALL EQUIPMENT BROUGHT INTO A CONTINGENCY LANDING SITE WILL BE REMOVED UPON COMPLETION OF THE OPERATION.

9. SECURITY: BASE SECURITY PERSONNEL WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION AND INSURE SAFETY AROUND THE ORBITER.

10. CONTINGENT UPON GOS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE, NASA PLANNING TO SEND SITE SURVEY TEAM IN JUNE/JULY 1978 TO DETERMINE LOCAL CAPABILITIES AND BRIEF BASE PERSONNEL. IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NEED APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIALS CAN BE FURTHER BRIEFED AT THAT TIME. IT IS RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROBABILITY OF CONTINGENCY LANDING IS VERY SMALL AND THAT ALL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO LAND THE SHUTTLE AT NORMAL END-OF-MISSION SITES IN THE U.S. VANCE

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